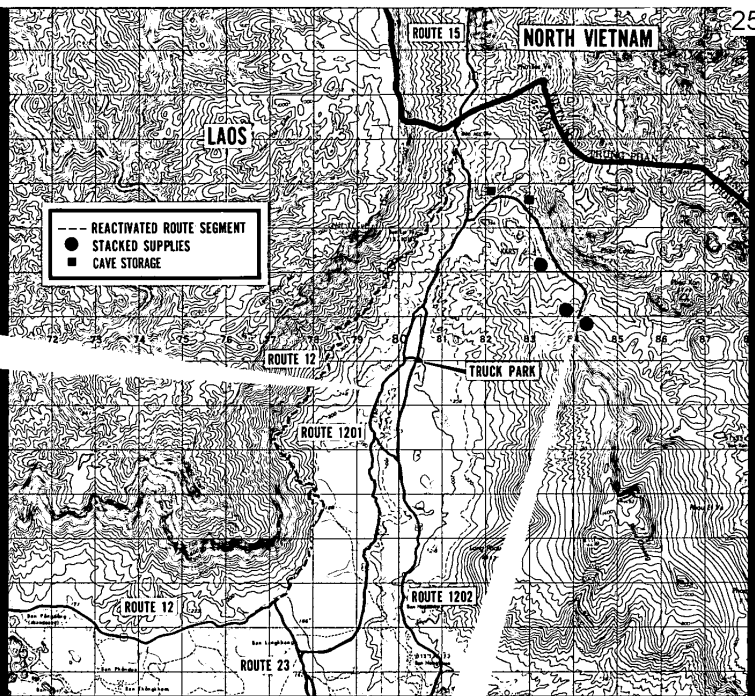
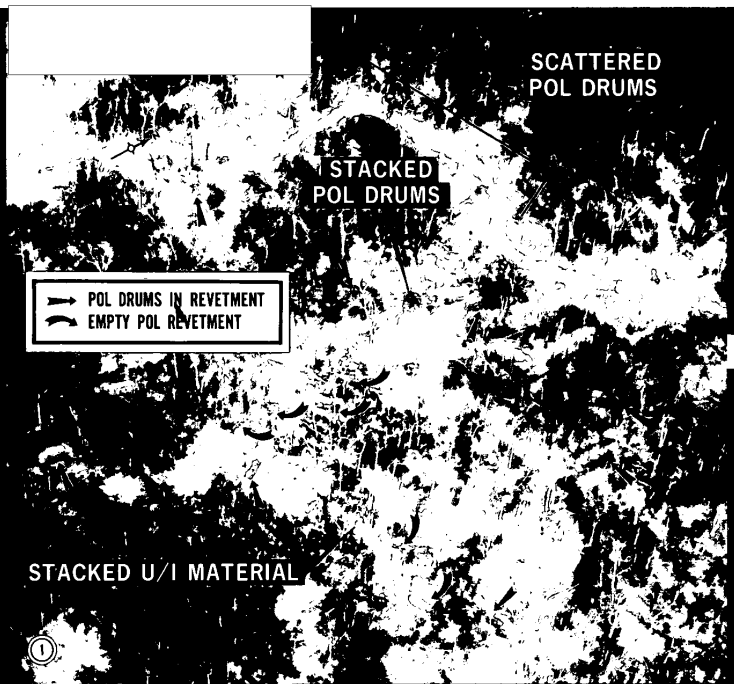


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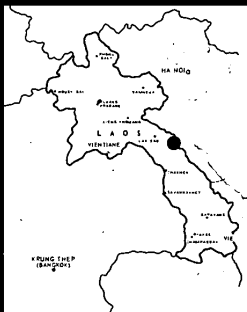
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ROAD REACTIVATION AND STORAGE FACILITIES MU GIA PASS, LAOS 17-37N 105-45E



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ROAD REACTIVATION AND STORAGE FACILITIES
MU GIA PASS, LAOS
1737N 10545E'

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS EXTENSIVE BULK STORAGE IN OPEN AREAS OF MU GIA PASS. IT ALSO PROVIDES EVIDENCE THAT ROUTE 12 IS BEING REACTIVATED THROUGH THE PASS.


2. LOCATION:

MU GIA PASS IS LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE LAOTIAN PANHANDLE AND WAS ORIGINALLY THE ONLY ROAD PASS BETWEEN NORTH VIETNAM AND LAOS THROUGH THE ANNAMITE MOUNTAINS.

3. BACKGROUND:

NUMEROUS STRUCTURES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED WITHIN THE PASS PRIOR TO THIS TIME. HOWEVER, OPEN BULK-STORAGE OF THIS MAGNITUDE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN IN THE RECENT PAST.

4. MISSION READOUT:

 REVEALS EXTENSIVE USE OF THE MU GIA PASS AREA FOR OPEN BULK-STORAGE OF UNIDENTIFIED CRATED MATERIAL AND POL.

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INSET #1 AT 1736N 10545E (UTM WE795472) DEPICTS APPROXIMATELY 750 POL DRUMS DISPERSED IN REVETMENTS, STACKED ABOVE GROUND AND SCATTERED ALONG THE ROAD. AT LEAST ONE STACK OF UNIDENTIFIED MATERIAL AND NUMEROUS EMPTY POL REVETMENTS, LOCATED WITHIN A SMALL AREA ADJACENT TO ROUTE 1201, ARE ALSO NOTED.

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GROUP 1: EXCLUDED FROM
AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

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INSET #2, AT 1737N 10547E (WE842488) SHOWS ONLY FOUR OF 20 STACKS OF CRATES CONTAINING UNIDENTIFIED MATERIAL. THE AREA IS SERVED BY AN ACCESS ROAD FROM ROUTE 1201.

ALSO NOTED, BUT NOT DEPICTED WITHIN THE AREA, ARE CAVE STORAGE SITES, ROW CROPS, HEAVILY USED TRAILS AND PERSONNEL TRENCHES.

THE PREVIOUSLY ABANDONED SEGMENT OF LAOS ROUTE 12 THROUGH THE PASS IS ALSO OBSERVED TO HAVE BEEN REACTIVATED FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 23 AT 1734N 10543E (WE771426) NORTH TO ITS JUNCTION WITH ROUTE 1201 AT 1739N 10546E (WE813527).

5. REMARKS:

MU GIA PASS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR INFILTRATION AND SUPPLY ROUTES FROM NORTH VIETNAM INTO LAOS.

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